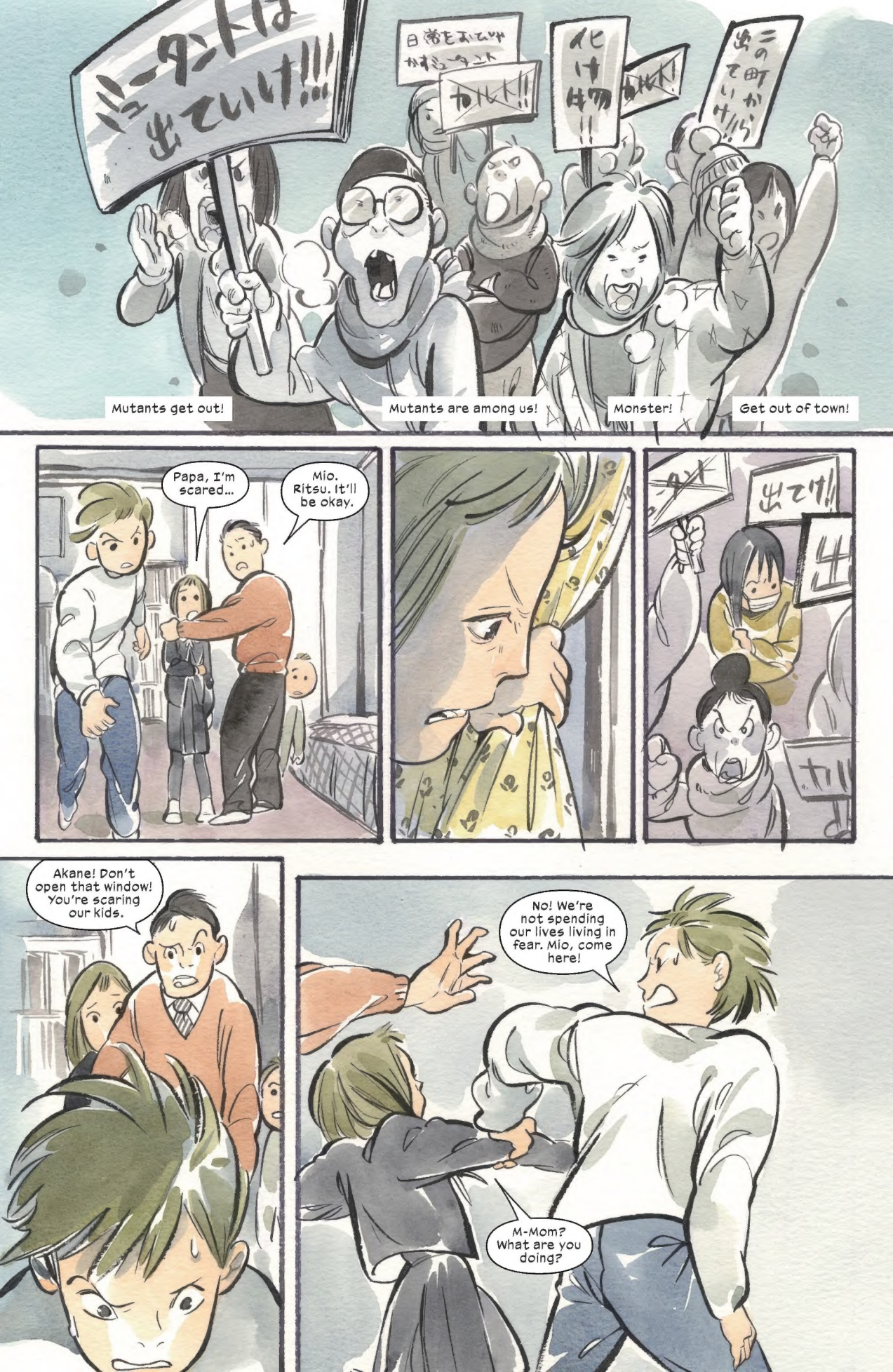
MARVEL

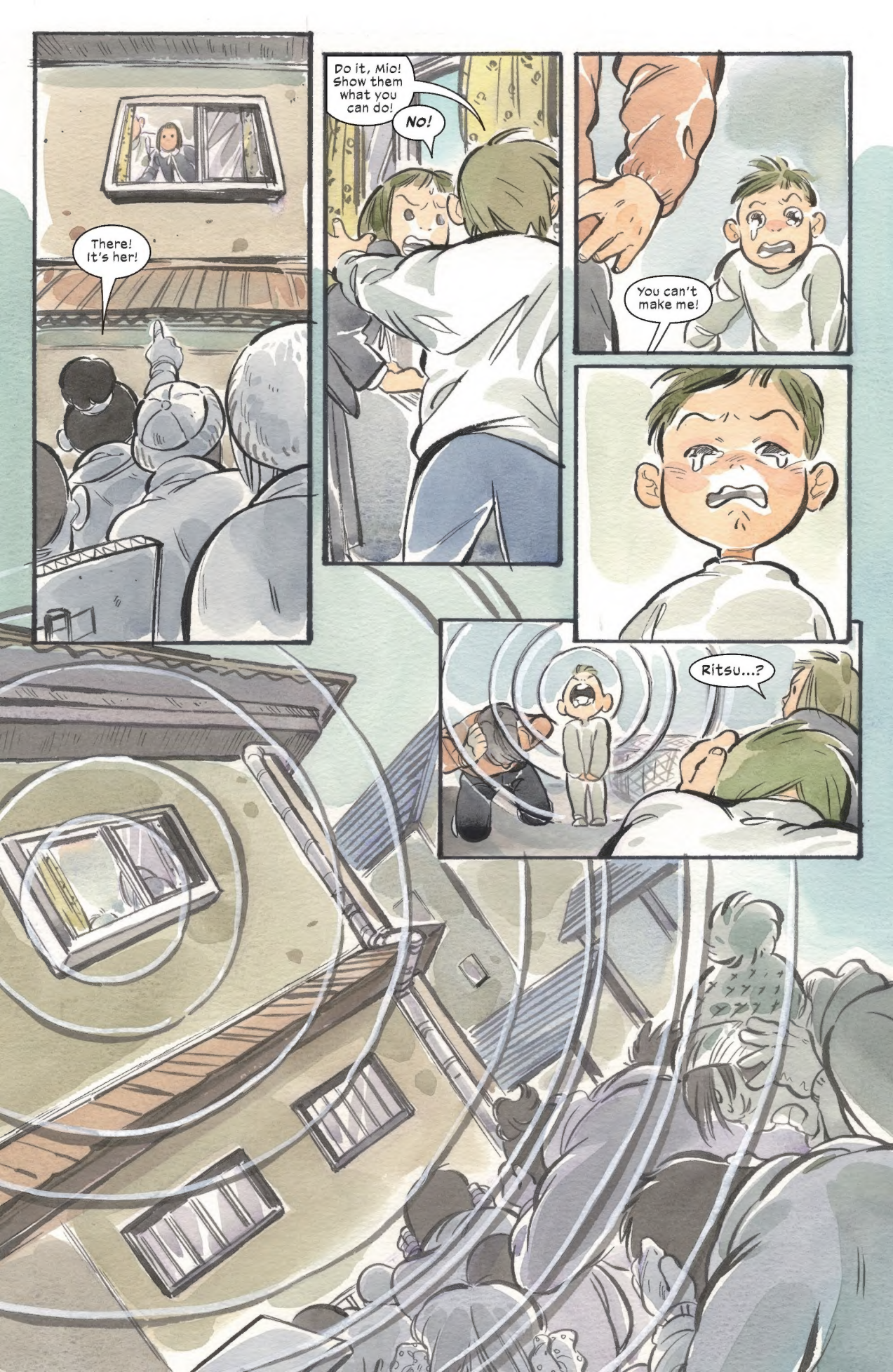
ULTIMATE X-MEN

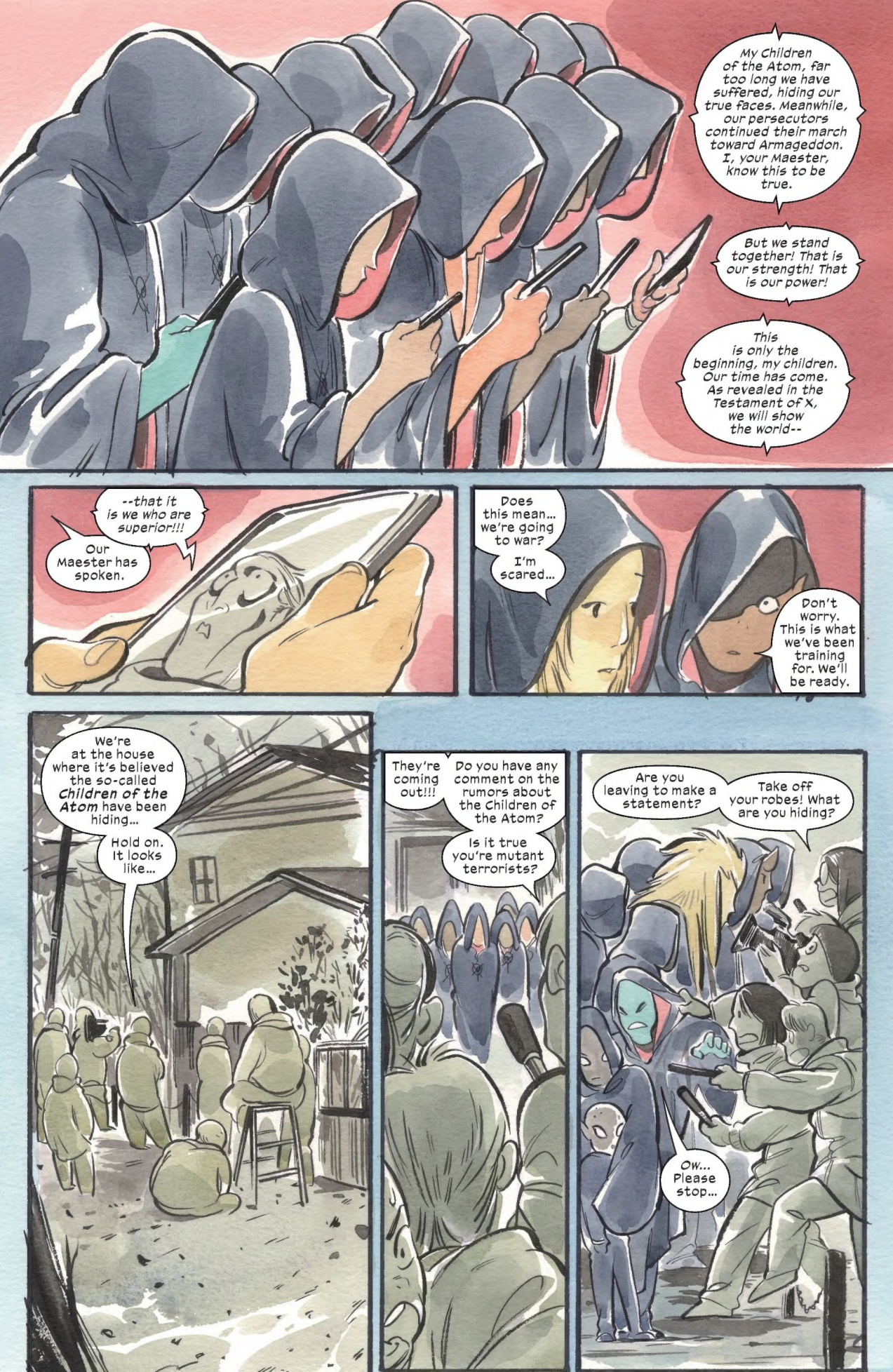
10

PEACH MOMOKO

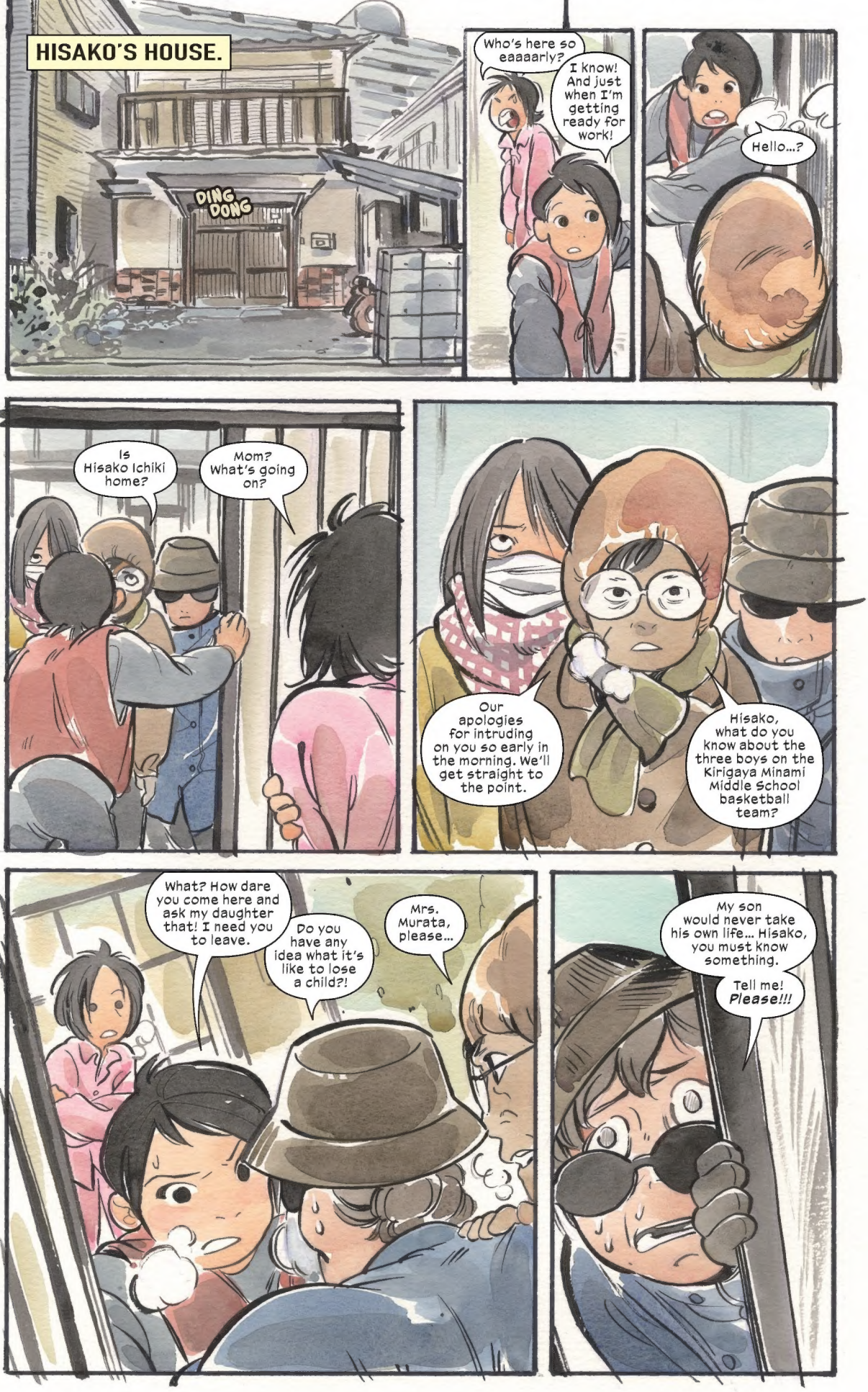
DEC. 2024 | RATED T+

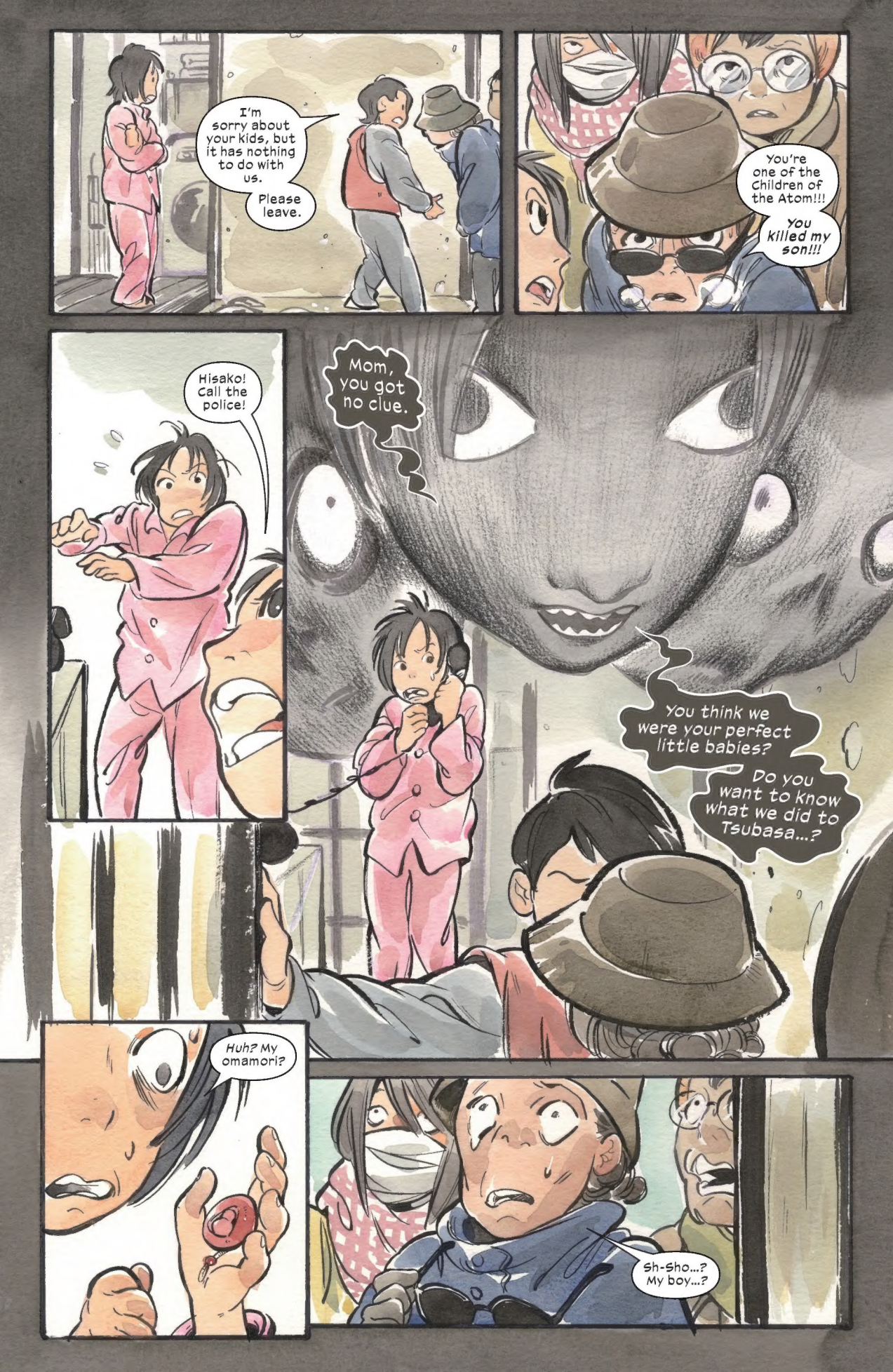

Mutants get out!
Mutants are among us!
Monster!
Get out of town!
Papa, I'm scared...
Mio. Ritsu. It'll be okay.
Akane! Don't open that window! You're scaring our kids.
No! We're not spending our lives living in fear. Mio, come here!
M-Mom? What are you doing?


There! It's her!
Do it, Mio! Show them what you can do!
NO!
You can't make me!
Ritsu...?


My Children of the Atom, far too long we have suffered, hiding our true faces. Meanwhile, our persecutors continued their march toward Armageddon. I, your Maester, know this to be true.
But we stand together! That is our strength! That is our power!
This is only the beginning, my children. Our time has come. As revealed in the Testament of X, we will show the world--
--that it is we who are superior!!!
Our Maester has spoken.
Does this mean... we're going to war?
I'm scared...
Don't worry. This is what we've been training for. We'll be ready.
We're at the house where it's believed the so-called Children of the Atom have been hiding...
Hold on. It looks like...
They're coming out!!!
Do you have any comment on the rumors about the Children of the Atom?
Is it true you're mutant terrorists?
Are you leaving to make a statement?
Take off your robes! What are you hiding?
Ow... Please stop...

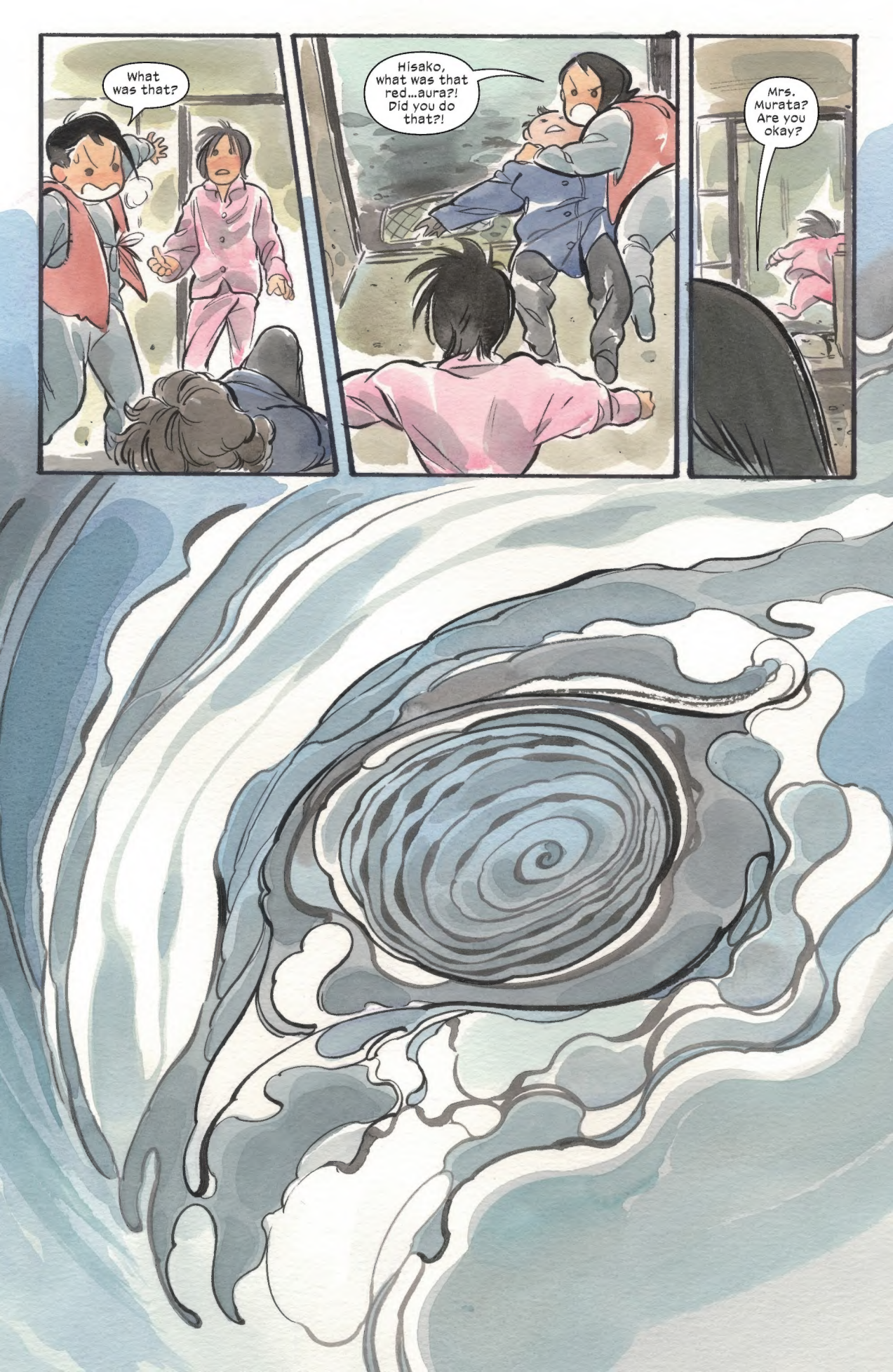
Now.
What do you know about that suitcase found near Arakawa River?
We've heard rumors of human experimentation! Is that what's been done to you?
?
HYEEAAAAAAHHH!!!


HISAKO'S HOUSE.
DING DONG
Who's here so eaaaarly?
I know! And just when I'm getting ready for work!
Hello...?
Is Hisako Ichiki home?
Mom? What's going on?
Our apologies for intruding on you so early in the morning. We'll get straight to the point.
Hisako, what do you know about the three boys on the Kirigaya Minami Middle School basketball team?
What? How dare you come here and ask my daughter that! I need you to leave.
Do you have any idea what it's like to lose a child?!
Mrs. Murata, please...
My son would never take his own life... Hisako, you must know something.
Tell me! *Please!!!*

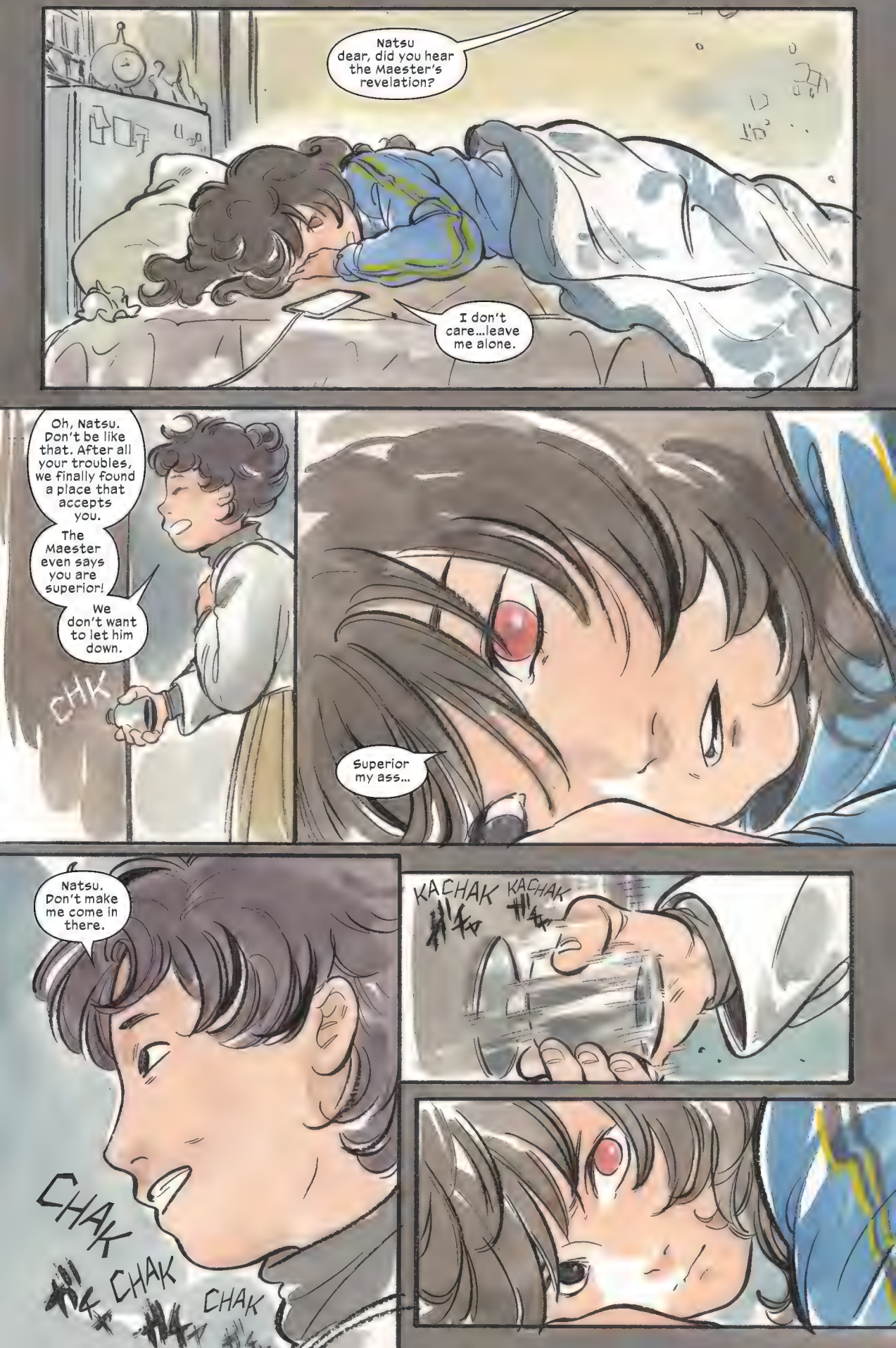

I'm sorry about your kids, but it has nothing to do with us.
Please leave.
You're one of the Children of the Atom!!!
You killed my son!!!
Hisako! Call the police!
Mom, you got no clue.
You think we were your perfect little babies?
Do you want to know what we did to Tsubasa...?
Huh? My omamori?
Sh-Sho...? My boy...?

We'll show you.
Sho... Please... stop...!!!
Ahhhh!!! A monster!!!
Wha... what???

Huh? Tsubasa?!
Hisako, stop!
Mom?
What are you doing?!
I don't... What?


What was that?
Hisako, what was that red...aura?! Did you do that?!
Mrs. Murata? Are you okay?

You cut your hair.
You lost weight.
...
Lotsa stuff going on. You see, Kageyama?
Those dummies actually believe the Maester.
I guess. So what, Ashida?
So...you wanna join the party?
Hmm... maybe it's time...

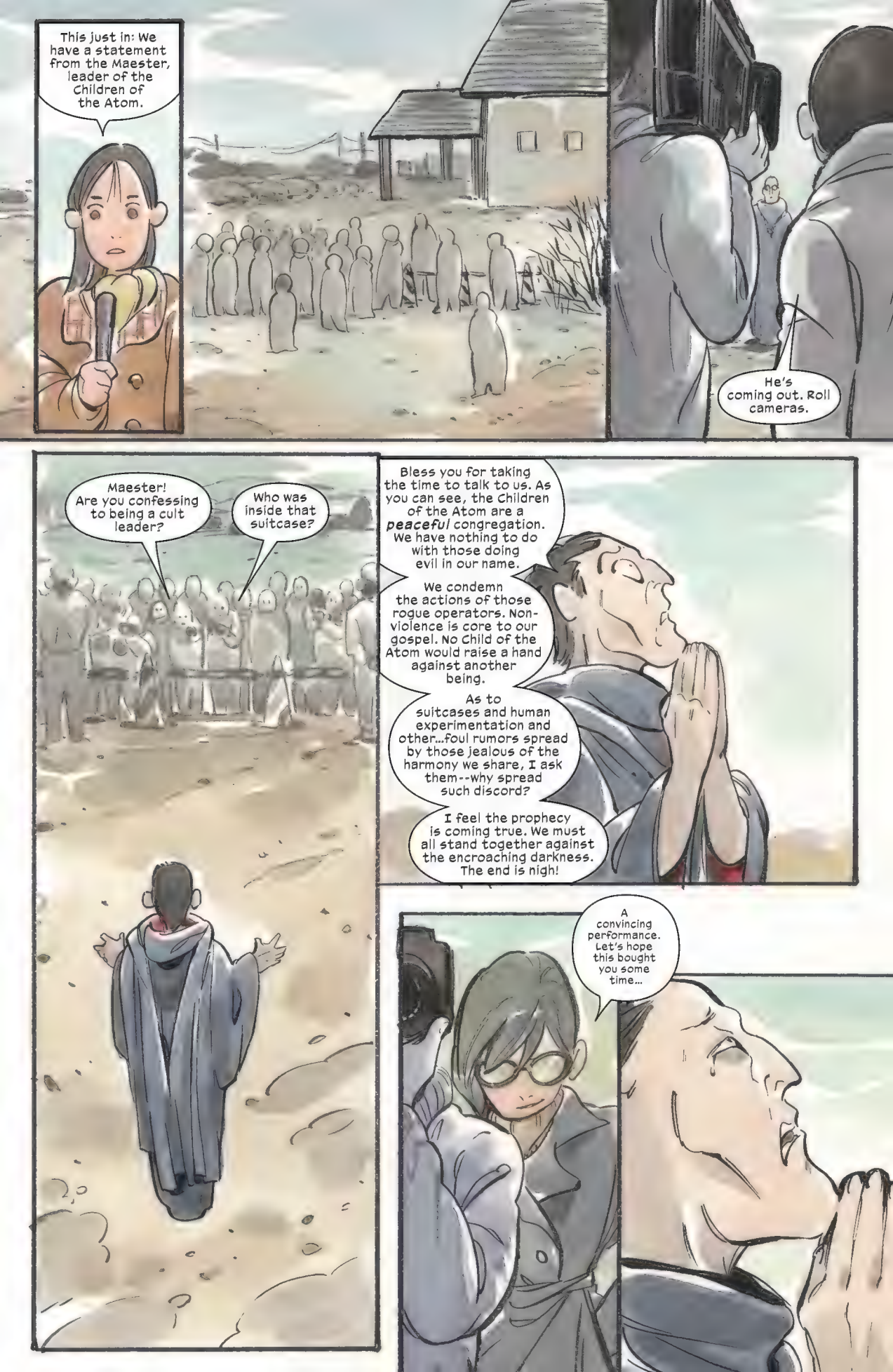

Natsu dear, did you hear the Maester's revelation?
I don't care...leave me alone.
Oh, Natsu. Don't be like that. After all your troubles, we finally found a place that accepts you.
The Maester even says you are superior!
We don't want to let him down.
CHK
Superior my ass...
Natsu. Don't make me come in there.
CHAK
CHAK
CHAK
KACHAK
KACHAK

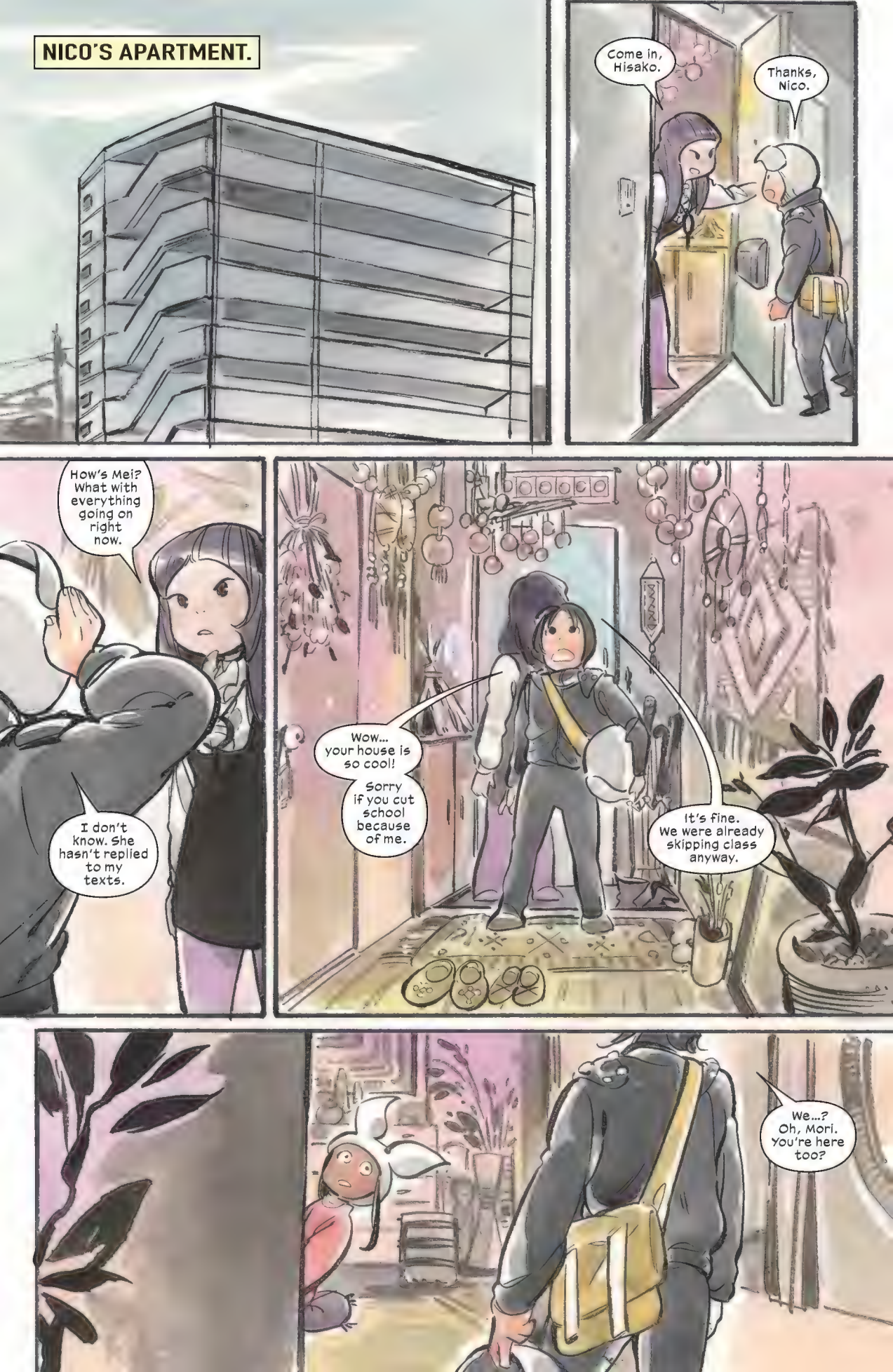
I'm your mother! Don't you dare use your optic blasts on me!!!
After all I've done for you... you're *still* a failure!!!
Mom...?

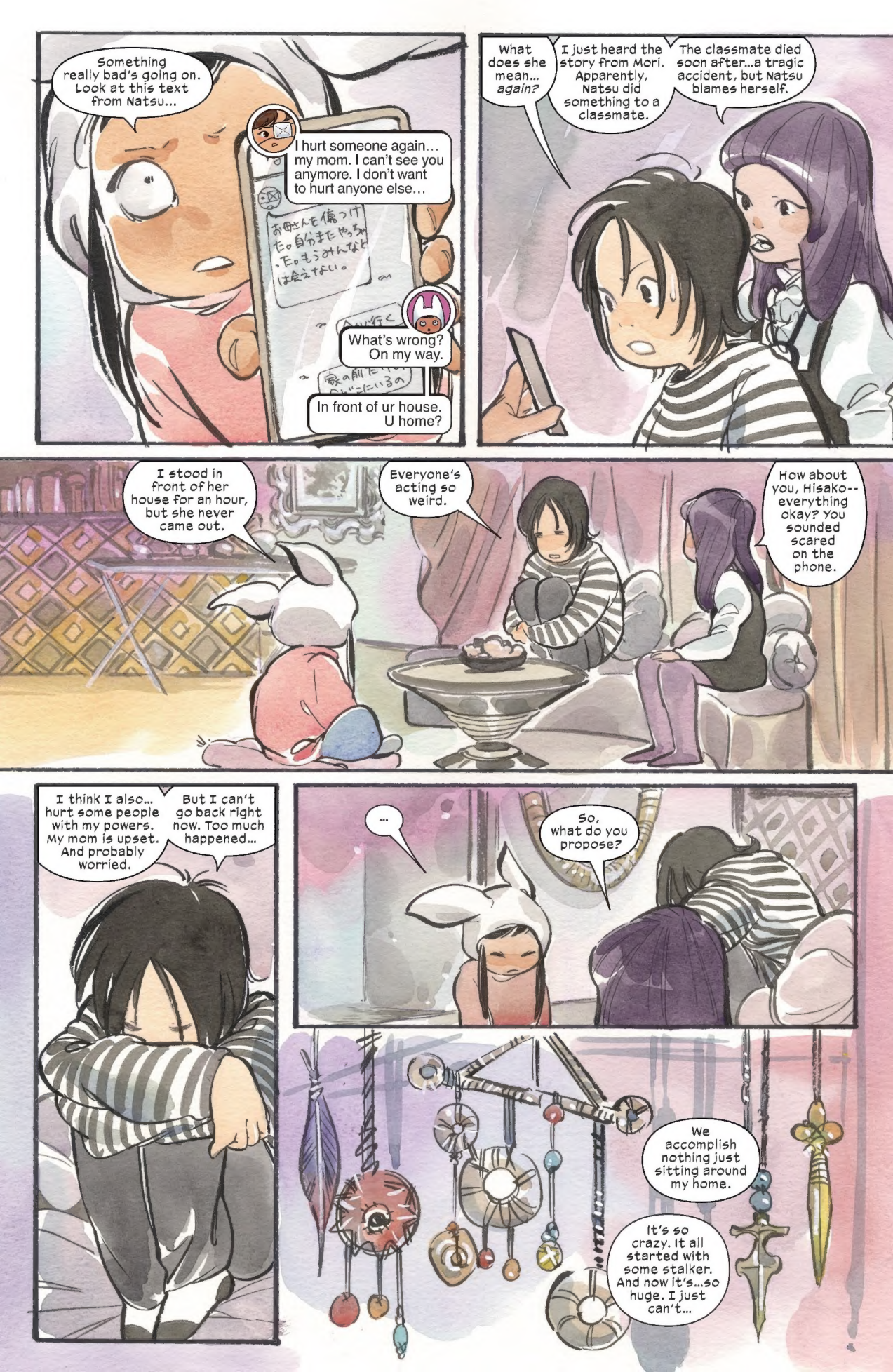
Mom!!!
Get up...
Mom!!!
Make me stop...
Tell me I'm a failure...
Like you always do...
...Mom...

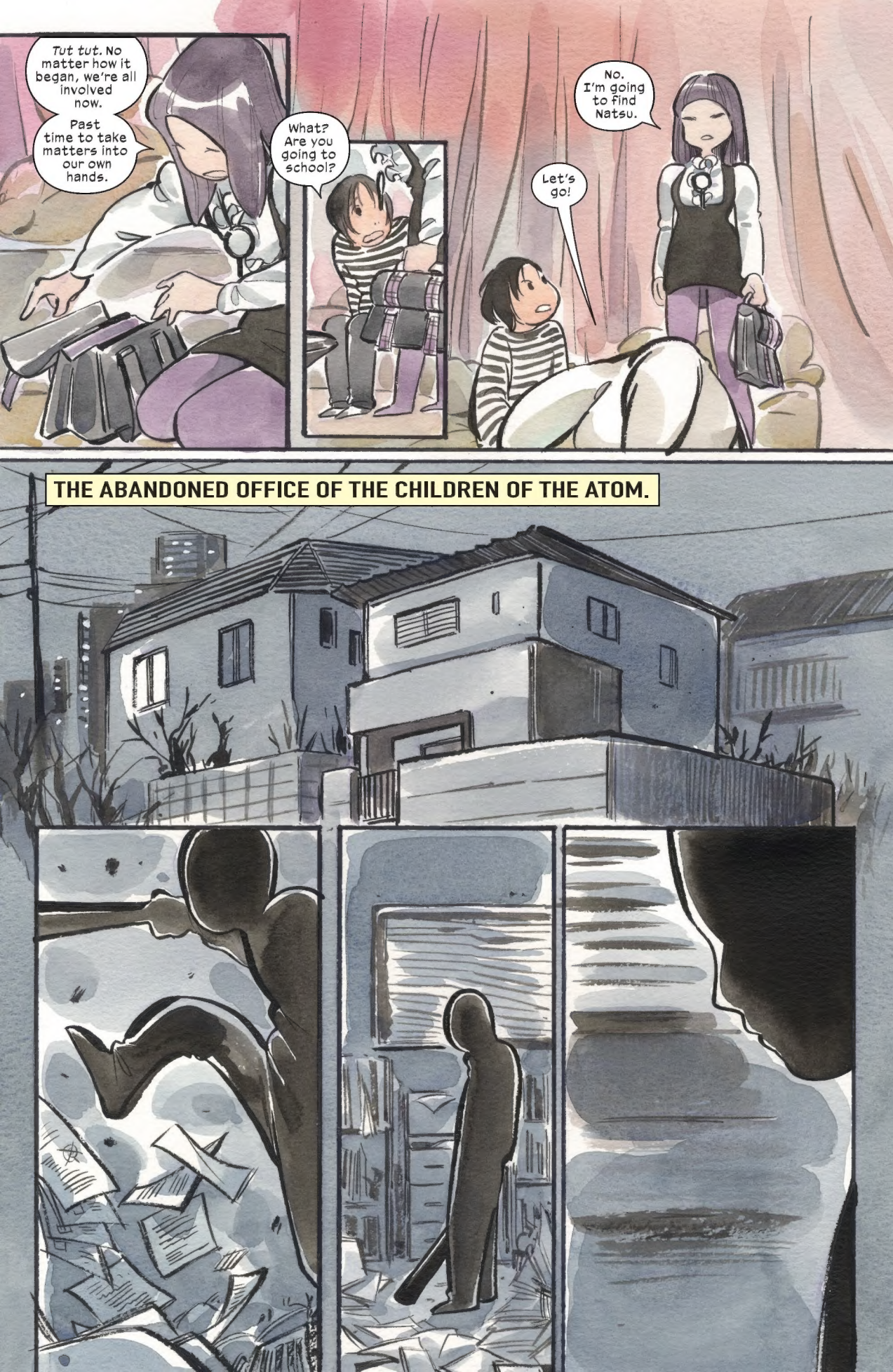
Fujiwara, what are you playing at?
I swear this isn't my doing. I didn't say a thing.
You're telling me your conditioned, mind-controlled army decided to act on their own for no reason?
I swear, I don't know what's happening.
Fujiwara, you are the Maester. Your entire role in this is to control the Children of the Atom.
If you are not capable of that, you have no value. Our deal will be dissolved.
U-understood, Viper...
Consider this your final chance. Deliver what you promised.
Dammit!!!
Blood... I need power...!

In light of recent attacks by mutants, why should we not be afraid of you?
Do you believe your abilities set you above humanity?
That wasn't even us.
Besides, that was self-defense. You flatscans attacked first!
We got a right to defend ourselves!
Can you comment on rumors of human experimentation?
Are your mutations natural or induced? Were you born this way?
Look, some mutants are born different. For some, it happens later.
And it's science, not experimentation. Why not make people better? It's no different from wearing glasses or having a pacemaker. It's all in how you look at it...
Maester taught us to live in peace but prepare for war.
He said the time would come when the righteous would need to rise up against the unworthy. To save the Earth. Now...that time has come.
Being born blue doesn't make you holy.
I was born a mutant and I have powers. But I'm not part of those Children of the Atom weirdos.
Mutant flex. LOL.
Wait, experiments? Does that mean they were made? They weren't born mutants?
...obviously mind-controlled.
I'm sure they felt alienated. The Children of the Atom must've given them somewhere to belong.
Dude. They're doing human sacrifices.
We were violently attacked unprovoked by the Children of the Atom.
Where are the police? All muties need to be put in jail.


This just in: We have a statement from the Maester, leader of the Children of the Atom.
He's coming out. Roll cameras.
Maester! Are you confessing to being a cult leader?
Who was inside that suitcase?
Bless you for taking the time to talk to us. As you can see, the Children of the Atom are a *peaceful* congregation. We have nothing to do with those doing evil in our name.
We condemn the actions of those rogue operators. Non-violence is core to our gospel. No Child of the Atom would raise a hand against another being.
As to suitcases and human experimentation and other...foul rumors spread by those jealous of the harmony we share, I ask them--why spread such discord?
I feel the prophecy is coming true. We must all stand together against the encroaching darkness. The end is nigh!
A convincing performance. Let's hope this bought you some time...


NICO'S APARTMENT.
Come in, Hisako.
Thanks, Nico.
How's Mei? What with everything going on right now.
I don't know. She hasn't replied to my texts.
Wow... your house is so cool!
Sorry if you cut school because of me.
It's fine. We were already skipping class anyway.
We...? Oh, Mori. You're here too?


Something really bad's going on. Look at this text from Natsu...
I hurt someone again… my mom. I can't see you anymore. I don't want to hurt anyone else…
What's wrong? On my way.
In front of ur house. U home?
What does she mean... *again?*
I just heard the story from Mori. Apparently, Natsu did something to a classmate.
The classmate died soon after...a tragic accident, but Natsu blames herself.
I stood in front of her house for an hour, but she never came out.
Everyone's acting so weird.
How about you, Hisako--everything okay? You sounded scared on the phone.
I think I also... hurt some people with my powers. My mom is upset. And probably worried.
But I can't go back right now. Too much happened...
...
So, what do you propose?
We accomplish nothing just sitting around my home.
It's so crazy. It all started with some stalker. And now it's...so huge. I just can't...


Tut tut. No matter how it began, we're all involved now.
Past time to take matters into our own hands.
What? Are you going to school?
No. I'm going to find Natsu.
Let's go!
THE ABANDONED OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN OF THE ATOM.

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To be continued...

LEXICON

INSIDE NICO MINORU'S BACKPACK AND WARDROBE